a variety of characters to American solitaires of the genus *Myadestes*, and recommended the merger of that genus and *Phaeornis*. The Thirty-fifth supplement to 'The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds' (6th Edition 1983) (1985, *Auk* 102: 683–684) followed Pratt's recommendation. The former *Phaeornis obscurus* (Gmelin) 1789 thus became *Myadestes obscurus* (Gmelin) 1789 and the Latin name of the Brown-backed Solitaire of Mexico, formerly *M. obscurus* Lafresnaye 1839, became preoccupied. The Brown-backed Solitaire is now known as *M. occidentalis* Stejneger 1882, based on the epithet of its western subspecies. No name is available, however, for the eastern and formerly nominate subspecies. I propose that it be called

Myadestes occidentalis orientalis nom. nov.

in the hope that the seemingly contradictory epithets will cause less confusion than a totally new name devoid of useful information.

It should be noted that this paper is the same as the one which was cited in my earlier work (Pratt *loc. cit.*) as "Pratt (in press)". It will not be published, *contra* the citation, in the Occasional Papers of the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University.

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Notes on some Brazilian seabirds (3)

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This report follows Teixeira *et al.* 1985, 1986, and records results of field-work covering the little known seabirds in Brazilian waters. They were obtained by the Ornithological Section of Museu Nacional during the last 2 years. In addition, the authors comment on some recently published data on Brazilian seabirds and clarify some existing misidentifications. Specimens in Brazilian ornithological collections are referred to by the initials of each institution plus the respective catalogue number. English names and the sequence of species follow Meyer de Schauensee (1970).

LIGHT-MANTLED ALBATROSS *Phoebetria palpebrata*

In 1985, Willis & Oniki (1985) re-identified the single specimen of *Phoebetria* in the collection of the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP 37153) as a Sooty Albatross *Phoebetria fusca*, as opposed to other authors (e.g. Pinto 1978, Sick 1985), who considered this specimen, obtained from Bertioga, coastal São Paulo (c. 23°50'S, 46°09'W) to be a Light-mantled Albatross *P. palpebrata*. Recently, we had the opportunity to visit the collection of MZUSP and to compare this

bird with our notes based on the series of both species housed in the British Museum (Natural History). As a result we consider the MZUSP specimen, a male in adult plumage (which is recognizable by the whitish shafts of the primaries and tail–see Harrison 1983 and Murphy 1936) should be attributed to *P. palpebrata*. Even though some individuals of both species may appear quite similar, the MZUSP bird has dark brown head, wings and tail contrasting with the greyish plumage of the body, a pattern typical of *P. palpebrata*, but apparently not observed in adults of *P. fusca*, which have an entirely sooty-brown plumage. So far as we know, the record of *P. palpebrata* in Brazil is based only on this specimen, though it has been reported in sight records from coastal Rio Grande do Sul (Vooren 1985).

KERGUELEN PETREL *Pterodroma brevirostris*

As stated previously (see Blake 1977, Teixeira *et al.* 1985), the South American records of the Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* have been erroneously credited to *P. brevirostris*. So far as we know, the only occurrence of the Kerguelen Petrel in South America has been based on a single bird from Canelones, Uruguay (Escalante 1979). However, the Museu Nacional obtained a male of this species (MN 35237) from Salvador, Bahia (c. 12°59′S, 38°31′W) in September 1985. As so often the case with seabirds in Brazil, this specimen had been stranded on the beach during a storm.

WHITE-BELLIED STORM-PETREL *Fregetta grallaria*

Even though Pinto (1938) included this species in his 'Catalogo das Aves do Brasil', apparently there were no substantiated records to confirm its inclusion in the Brazilian avifauna (Teixeira *et al.* 1986). However, in October 1987 it was possible to recognise isolated individuals of *F. grallaria* along with the Wilson's Storm-petrels *Oceanites oceanicus* in Brazilian waters c. 370 km off the Espirito Santo coast (c. 20°18′S, 36°42′W). There are also other recent reports of this species along the Brazilian coast ["between Rio de Janeiro and Salvador"] (Coelho *et al.* 1985). *F. grallaria* may be more common in pelagic Brazilian waters than previously believed, but there are no records for any species of this genus on the coast.

AUSTRALASIAN GANNET *Sula serrator*

In August 1986, Bege & Pauli (1986) obtained an isolated specimen of this gannet from Ilhas Moleques do Sul, coastal Santa Catarina (c. 27°51′S, 48°26′W), southern Brazil. This seems to be the first record of this species for the Americas; *S. serrator* has an Australasian range, with accidental occurrence previously only in southwestern and southern Africa (Harrison 1983, Nelson 1978). Considering the close similarities between species of the *Sula bassana* complex, it is possible that the recent record of *Sula capensis* off the coast of Rio Grande do Sul (c. 29°–32°S, *apud* Belton 1985, Vooren 1985) could be attributed to the Australasian Gannet, the identification apparently being based on a photograph.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

In South America, the Black Tern has been recorded as a seasonal visitor along the coasts of Colombia, Venezuela, the Guianas and Peru; it

also occurs accidentally in Chile and Argentina (Blake 1977, Harrison 1983). On 12 Nov 1987, we obtained a female (MN 35290; gonads 3 mm, 63.5 g, 242 mm total length; stomach contents: 2 specimens of *Jenynsia jenynsia*), in typical first-winter plumage, from Lagoa de Maricá, municipality of Maricá, Rio de Janeiro (c. 22°56′S, 42°50′W). This seems to be the first record of this species for Brazil.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

The occurrence of the Sandwich Tern in Brazil seems to be based on a single banded specimen captured in Rio Grande do Norte (Sick 1979, 1985). In the last few years, however, we have obtained 4 specimens of this species from Guanabara Bay (c. 22°50′S, 43°10′W), Rio de Janeiro (MN 33211, ♂, gonads 4 mm, 250 g; MN 33225, unsexed, 222 g; MN 33272, ♀, gonads 2 mm, 242 g; MN 34197, ♀, gonads 4 mm, 195 g, 395 mm total length). They were collected in April, May, July and September. Some authors (e.g. Voous 1968, 1977, Pinto 1938) consider misidentifications involving the very similar Cayenne Tern *Sterna eurygnatha* to be common, since both species frequently occur side by side in the same flock. Though not always easily so, recently collected specimens of *S. sandvicensis* may be recognizable by their small size and also by the colour of their foot-soles, which are whitish, instead of yellowish as in *S. eurygnatha*. The movements of both species in Brazilian waters are little known, but according to our observations, the Sandwich Tern is not a common species on the southeastern Brazilian coast.

BROWN NODDY *Anous stolidus*

Breeds on several south Atlantic oceanic islands such as Fernando de Noronha, Trindade, St. Paul Rock etc. In May 1987, E. E. Kischlat obtained a very decomposed corpse of an individual from Barra de Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro (c. 22°54′S, 43°14′W). With its pelagic habits, this species is very uncommon in such waters, and this seems to be its first record on the Brazilian coast.

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Aberrant primaries and rectrices in Columbidae

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Normally, birds have a species-specific fixed number of primaries, secondaries and rectrices. However, occasionally they have been found to have abnormal numbers of these feathers (Stresemann & Stresemann 1966, Hanmer 1981, 1985, Somadikarta 1984, Melville 1985).

At Ludhiana (30°56′N, 70°52′E, c. 247 m a.s.l.) birds belonging to 5 species of Columbidae have been collected for gut content, morphometry and plumage studies, namely, Blue Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*, Ring Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, Little Brown Dove *S. senegalensis*, Spotted Dove *S. chinensis* and Red Turtle Dove *S. tranquebarica*. Of these, out of a total of 206 Ring Doves and 127 Blue Rock Pigeons examined, one Ring Dove was found to be anisorectricial (0.49%), 2 had one primary missing (0.98%) and one Blue Rock Pigeon (0.79%) had an additional pair of primaries. All other specimens were normal, having 10 pairs of primaries, 12 pairs of secondaries and 6 pairs of rectrices.

The anisorectricial Ring Dove collected on 15 Sep 1985 had 13 rectrices, 6 on the left and 5 on the right side of the central pair, all of which remained evenly spaced across the pygostyle (Fig. 1) but were slightly more cramped on the side with the extra rectrix.

Of 2 Ring Doves, collected on 15 Jan 1986 and 17 Apr 1986, both had one primary missing on its left wing, ie. 9 primaries instead of 10 (Fig. 2). There was no evidence of trauma. The right wings had the normal 10